



150 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 2100
Chicago, IL 60606
(p) 312.580.1020, (f) 312.580.9696
hfzlaw.com

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TO: Examiner Qing Yuan Wu

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FAX NO.: 571-273-3776

FROM: Michael W. Zimmerman

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MESSAGE: Please review the proposed amendment to be entered as Examiner's amendment.

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beyondINNOVATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Serial No. 10/608,586)
First Named Inventor: Doran)
Title: Methods and Apparatus to)
Protect a Protocol Interface)
Filed: June 27, 2003)
TC/AU: 2194)
Examiner: Qing Yuan Wu)
Docket No.: 20002/16812)
)
)
)

Examiner Qing Yuan Wu
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Fax: 571-273-3776

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BE ENTERED AS EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Changes to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

The Status of the Claims is reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.

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Proposed Amendment

Changes to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] In another example, the processor 120 may determine whether the driver request is a request to access a restricted protocol interface (block 1010) and determine whether the driver request is a reinstall request (block 1020) to determine if the loaded driver is associated with a violation condition as shown in flow chart 1000 of FIG. 10. The processor 120 may store the restricted AP in the protocol database [[or]]~~to~~ reject the reinstall request by the loaded driver (block 1025).

Please replace paragraph [0046] with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] As yet another example, the processor 120 may determine whether the driver request is a request to access a restricted protocol interface (block 1110) and determine whether the driver request is an install request by the loaded driver (block 1130) to determine if the loaded driver is associated with a violation condition as shown in flow chart 1100 of FIG. 11. The processor 120 may store the restricted protocol interface in the protocol database [[or]]~~to~~ reject the install request by the loaded driver (1125). As a result, the restricted protocol interfaces of the processor system 100 (i.e., the APs 320) are protected from unauthorized access (e.g., access by callers other than the phase core 330).

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Proposed Amendment

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

The Status of the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method to protect a protocol interface comprising:
receiving a driver request from a driver during an operation phase of firmware in a processor system;
identifying the driver request as a request associated with a violating condition of the protocol interface; and
rejecting the driver request, wherein rejecting the driver request comprises storing the protocol interface in a data structure in response to identifying a request by a driver to access an architectural protocol installed in the processor system and in response to identifying the driver request as a request associated with a violating condition of the protocol interface, wherein receiving the driver request during the operating phase of firmware comprises receiving the driver request during one of a pre-BFI initialization (PEI) phase and a driver execution environment (DXE) phase.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein identifying the driver request as the request associated with the violating condition of the protocol interface comprises identifying at least one of a request to access an architectural protocol installed in the processor system, a reinstall request, and an install request by a driver.
4. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein identifying the driver request as a request associated with the violating condition of the protocol interface comprises identifying the driver request associated with a violating condition of a central processing unit (CPU) architectural protocol.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein rejecting the driver request comprises rejecting one of a reinstall request and an install request by a driver.
7. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium storing instructions, which when executed, cause a machine to:
receive a driver request during an operation phase of firmware in a processor system;

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identify the driver request as a request associated with a violating condition of a protocol interface; and

reject the driver request by storing the protocol interface in a data structure in response to identifying a request by a driver to access an architectural protocol installed in the processor system and in response to identifying the driver request as a request associated with a violating condition of the protocol interface, wherein the instructions cause the machine to receive the driver request during an operating phase of firmware by receiving the driver request during one of a pre-EFI initialization (PEI) phase and a driver execution environment (DXE) phase.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) A machine readable medium as defined in claim 7, wherein the instructions cause the machine to identify the driver request associated with the violation condition of the protocol interface by identifying at least one of a request to access an architectural protocol installed in the processor system, a reinstall request, and an install request by a driver.

10. (Original) A machine readable medium as defined in claim 7, wherein the instructions cause the machine to identify the driver request associated with the violation condition of the protocol interface by identifying the driver request associated with a violating condition of a central processing unit (CPU) architectural protocol.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A machine readable medium as defined in claim 7, wherein the instructions cause the machine to reject the driver request by rejecting one of a reinstall request and an install request by a driver.

13. (Original) A machine readable medium as defined in claim 7, wherein the machine readable medium comprises one of a programmable gate array, application specific integrated circuit, erasable programmable read only memory, read only memory, random access memory, magnetic media, and optical media.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

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16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A processor system to protect a protocol interface comprising:

a memory configured to store one or more protocol interfaces;

a processor operatively coupled to the memory and to a machine readable medium storing instructions that, when executed, cause the processor to receive a driver request from a driver during an operation phase of firmware in the processor system, to identify the driver request as a request associated with a violating condition of the protocol interface by the driver, to reject the driver request, and store the protocol interface in the data structure in response to identifying a request by a driver to access an architectural protocol installed in the processor system and in response to identifying the driver request as a request associated with a violating condition of the protocol interface, wherein the operation phase comprises one of a pre-EFI initialization (PEI) phase and a driver execution environment (DXE) phase.

20. (Original) A processor system as defined in claim 19, wherein the driver request comprises one of a request to access an architectural protocol installed in the processor system, a reinstall request, and an install request by the driver,

21. (Original) A processor system as defined in claim 19, wherein the protocol interface comprises a central processing unit (CPU) architectural protocol.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

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Remarks

In light of the telephonic Examiner Interview conducted on May 19, 2008, the applicants submit the forgoing amendments to the claims and the specification as proposed amendments to be entered by an examiner's amendment. By way of the forgoing amendments, Paragraphs [0045] and [0046] have been amended, claims 2, 8, and 22 have been cancelled, and all of the recitations of claims 2, 8, and 22 have been incorporated in claims 1, 7, and 19, respectively. In light of the examiner's indication that claims incorporating all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2, 7 and 8, and 19 and 22, respectively, would be allowable, the applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance.

If there is any remaining matter that the examiner would like to discuss, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,
HANLEY, FLIGHT & ZIMMERMAN, LLC
150 South Wacker Drive
Suite 2100
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dated: May 19, 2008

/Michael W. Zimmerman/
Michael W. Zimmerman
Reg. No. 57,993
Agent for Applicants
312.580.1020